

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01 ISO-00

L-03 H-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11 AGR-20 COME-00 CIEP-02

OMB-01 TRSE-00 STR-08 OIC-04 HEW-08 DRC-01 /212 W

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R 061514Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5279

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ROME

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ROME FOR FODAG DEPT: PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAOA, FAO

SUBJECT: UN WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE: DRAFT UNGA RESOLUTION

REF: STATE 235815

SUMMARY: FRENCH MF AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS HAD U.S. DRAFT RESOLUTION ON WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN HAND AND WERE FORTHCOMING IN FRANK DISCUSSION OF QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFTEL. IT APPEARS CERTAIN GOF WILL SUPPORT U.S. RESOLUTION BUT POSSIBILITY OF CO-SPONSORSHIP MUST AWAIT FURTHER INTRAGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIONS. END SUMMARY

1. EMBASSY OFFICER MET JOINTLY WITH MFA OFFICIALS DE PIERREDOM AND CHOLLET DECEMBER 5 TO DISCUSS U.S. DRAFT RESOLUTION ON WFC. CHOLLET HAD PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED U.S. DRAFT THROUGH FRENCH UN CHANNELS AND WAS SUFFICIENTLY PREPARED TO THOROUGHLY AIR FRENCH VIEWS.

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WM CHOLLET STATED FRANCE AND THE U.S. WERE MORE OR LESS IN AGREEMENT ON RAISON D'ETRE OF WFC AND GOF COULD SUPPORT U.S. DRAFT. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO CHOLLET, GOF HAD NOT YET THOUGHT IN TERMS OF "CO-SPONSORSHIP" AND INTERNAL CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE NECESSARY TO EXPLORE THIS POSSIBILITY. HE EXPRESSED OPINION THAT MANDATE OF WFC COULD BE MADE MORE PRECISE BY MENTIONING IF POSSIBLE PROBLEM OF NUTRITION. THIS WOULD STRESS FACT THAT CONFERENCE CONCERNED FOOD AND NOT TRADE. HE EMPHASIZED FRANCE WOULD NOT BE ADAMANT ON THIS INCLUSION.

3. CHOLLET SYMPATHIZED WITH U.S. HOPE THAT UN RESOLUTION COULD UTILIZE REPORT AGREED ON IN FAO ROME CONFERENCE RATHER THAN REOPENING SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. HOWEVER, HE CONSIDERED IT A "PIOUS HOPE" AND BELIEVED IT IMPROBABLE THAT SUBSTANCE WOULD NOT AGAIN BE SURFACED. BUT HE AGREED, "LET'S NOT RE-OPEN IF POSSIBLE".

4. CHOLLET WAS IN AGREEMENT WITH PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH 4 OF U.S. DRAFT WHICH REFLECTED VIEWS OF UNCTAD SYG PEREZ GUERRERO IN HOPES OF MODERATING MORE DIVERGENT VIEWS OF THE NON-ALIGNED. HE COMMENTED THAT LDCS CAN BE EXPECTED TO INTRODUCE OTHER ELEMENTS IN DISCUSSION OF DRAFT, AND U.S. AND FRANCE MUST COOPERATE IN DEFLECTING AN UNACCEPTABLE RESOLUTION.

5. REGARDING PRIMARY ROLE OF FAO AMONG UN AGENCIES AS EXPRESSED IN U.S. DRAFT, CHOLLET WAS NOT SANGUINE U.S. AND FRANCE COULD BRING THIS OFF AND FURTHERMORE WAS NOT SURE IT WAS SO IMPORTANT DUE TO CHANGING NATURE OF FAO. HOWEVER, WHAT HE DEEMED MOST IMPORTANT WAS THAT PREPARATORY COMMITTEE BE APPOINTED BY ECOSOC AND NOT JOINTLY BY SECRETARIES GENERAL OF UN AND FAO.

6. ON SIZE OF PREPARATORY COMMITTEE, CHOLLET SEIZED OPPORTUNITY TO CLARIFY FRENCH POSITION. FIRST AND FOREMOST, FRANCE CONSIDERED

IT MOST IMPORTANT THAT SHE BE IN THE COMMITTEE. CHOLLET CORRECTED IMPRESSION EXPRESSED IN REFTEL THAT FRANCE PARTICULARLY WAS NOT DISPOSED TO ACCEPT A PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF 27 OR OTHER RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER. SIZE WAS NOT RELEVANT. POINT WAS THAT FRANCE WANTED IN AND IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DENY ENTRY TO THOSE WHO CONSIDERED THEY HAD VITAL INTERESTS AT STAKE, ESPECIALLY AFRICANS. THIS WAS NOT THE SAME THING AS SAYING PREPARATORY COMMITTEE SHOULD BE OPEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO ALL. CHOLLET CONTESTED STATEMENT THAT UNDER-27 FORMULA WOULD NOT RESTRICT WEST EUROPEAN MEMBERSHIP, POINTING OUT PROPOSAL OF ARGENTINIAN REPRESENTATIVE AT ROME THAT WESTERN EUROPE HAVE ONE MEMBER ON COMMITTEE. IN CHOLLET'S VIEW U.S. AND FRANCE SHOULD BE OPEN-MINDED ON QUESTION OF SIZE AND THIS SHOULD NOT BE AN ISSUE OF "NO SURRENDER".

7. ON BEING ADVISED THAT U.S. POSITION FAVORS ROME AS VENUE OF

WFC, CHOLLET COMMITTED THAT AFRICA HAD A GOOD CLAIM BUT HE TOO FAVORED ROME. HE GAVE NO INDICATION GOF ENTERTAINED CONTRARY VIEW.

8. PARA 5 OF REFTTEL REQUESTED EMBASSY TO DETERMINE WHETHER FRENCH WOULD GO ALONG WITH U.S. DRAFT RESOLUTION WITHOUT INTRODUCING "OBSERVATION" ON TRADE MATTERS SUCH AS WAS PRESENTED AT FAO CONFERENCE. IN DEALING WITH THIS POINT CHOLLET SAID HE WANTED IT CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT FRENCH "OBSERVATION" WAS NOT A RESERVE OR AMENDMENT; IT WAS AN "OBSERVTION" AND NOT ON U.S. TEXT AT THAT BUT ON LOSE COMPROMISE TEXT. HE FORESAW NO FRENCH "OBSERVATION" ON U.S. DRAFT RESOLUTION.

COMMENT: FRENCH OFFICIALS GAVE EVERY INDICATION OF DESIRING TO COOPERATE WITH U.S. IN WFC AS LONG AS LINES ARE NOT BLURRED BETWEEN WFC AND MTN AGRICULTURAL ISSUES. THEY TOOK SPECIAL PAINS TO CLARIFY THEIR ATTITUDES ON SIZE OF PREPARATORY COMMITTEE AND TO EXPLAIN THAT FRENCH "OBSERVATION" AT FAO CONFERENCE SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED IN ANY WAY AS ANTI-U.S. OVERALL IMPRESSION WAS THAT OF CONSIDERABLE AGREEMENT WITH U.S. VIEWPOINT AS EXPRESSED IN U.S. DRAFT RESOLUTION AND DESIRE FOR SOLIDARITY.
IRWIN

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